

APPROVED: Meeting No. 09-93

ATTEST: 

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 08-93

March 15, 1993

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Public Hearing in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on March 15, 1993, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Mayor Duncan opened the meeting by expressing sympathy to the family of Norman Gettings who passed away last week. Mr. Gettings, a long-time Rockville resident, was very active with the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department.

In view of the weekend's snowstorm, Mayor Duncan requested that the City Manager provide a report on the City's snow removal efforts.

Mr. Romer advised that summer camp registration continued as scheduled on Saturday, from 6:00 a.m. to noon. About 300 persons were accommodated, resulting in approximately 600 registrations. This is a very popular camp program and, while individuals had lined up before the start of registration, everyone waited inside City Hall. Residents were advised that registration would continue on Monday morning, and staff was also here early today to assist residents.

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As far as snow removal is concerned, all of the City's systems, equipment and personnel worked well and there were no serious problems. Late Friday evening, our crews began salting the roads and later switched to plowing. There were 26 pieces of equipment on the roads at all times. There were some minor mechanical problems, but nothing that required taking trucks out of service.

The City experienced no utility problems during the storm (sewer and water) or water plant problems. Two trees were down over the public right-of-way and were promptly removed by our Parks crew.

By 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, every street in the City had been plowed once, some several times, including the 200 cul-de-sacs and dead-ends. The drivers were sent home about 10:00 p.m. on Saturday in order to begin work again on Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m.

This morning, the City was notified that Governor Schaefer intends to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration from President Clinton, and the City cooperated in this effort. In order to get the necessary information to the White House, the costs to be incurred through March 17 had to be assessed by 10:30 this morning. The costs exceeded \$109,000, and this information was provided on time. The City would be eligible for reimbursement of up to 75% of the costs associated with responding to the severe storm.

Mr. Romer indicated that all personnel involved did a fine job over the weekend, and special recognition was given to the Public Works, Police, and Recreation and Parks Departments. Finally, he noted that the real credit goes to the citizens for their level of understanding of the situation and their cooperation in staying at home and off the streets.

Councilmember Marrinan noted that we owe staff a great deal of gratitude. The real test was how well the City did in comparison with other jurisdictions, and the level of service provided

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by the City was exemplary.

Councilmember Robbins also expressed appreciation to the City Manager for keeping the Mayor and Council fully informed over the weekend.

One of the areas that had required improvement in the past was rest areas and work areas at the Public Works yard, and Councilmember Coyle asked if everything was satisfactory in this regard. The City Manager responded that, because of an appropriation made by the Mayor and Council, the facilities have been significantly improved. There are rest areas and cots available as well as restroom and shower facilities.

Councilmember Coyle also asked about the condition of bus stops inasmuch as this is a frequent source of complaint. The City Manager responded that buses did run and the City did not receive any complaints.

Councilmember Krasnow echoed praise for the excellent snow removal efforts.

Mayor Duncan reiterated that, as of 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, every street in the City had been plowed at least once. He, along with the City Manager and Director of Public Works, took a tour on Sunday and every neighborhood looked pretty good. He expressed thanks again for all the hard work.

Re: Public Hearing: Proposals concerning term limits for City of Rockville elected positions.

The Mayor and Council conducted a Public Hearing on the issue of term limits for elected positions in the City of Rockville, including the following four options:

- o No person shall serve in the same elected position for more than three (3) consecutive two-year terms.

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- o No person shall serve in the same elected position for more than four (4) consecutive two-year terms.
- o No person shall serve in the same elected position for more than six (6) consecutive two-year terms.
- o No term limits shall apply to elected positions in the City of Rockville.

The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to testify, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for two weeks, until the close of business on Monday, March 29, 1993.

Re: Public Hearing: Text Amendment Application T-133-93, Rockville Planning Commission, Applicant.

This application requests amendment to the parking design standards of the Zoning Ordinance to delete compact car parking spaces and provide a new uniform parking space size.

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on Text Amendment Application T-133-93, Rockville Planning Commission, Applicant, to delete compact car parking spaces and provide a new uniform parking space size. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to testify, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for two weeks, until the close of business on Monday, March 29, 1993.

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Re: Public Hearing: Annexation
Petition X-111-92, Mayor
and Council of Rockville,
Petitioners.

This petition requests
annexation of 15.47 acres of
land, more or less, of James
A. Hickey, Roman Catholic
Archbishop of Washington,
more particularly known as
St. Elizabeth's Church and
School, located at 917 and
919 Montrose Road.

The Mayor and Council conducted a Public Hearing on Annexation Petition X-111-92, Mayor and Council of Rockville, Petitioners, to annex 15.47 acres of land, more or less, of James A. Hickey, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington, more particularly known as St. Elizabeth's Church and School, located at 917 and 919 Montrose Road. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to testify, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for two weeks, until the close of business on Monday, March 29, 1993.

Re: Citizens Forum

At this time, the Mayor opened the meeting to hear from any citizen who wished to address the Mayor and Council.

1. William Meyer, 804 Leverton Road, complimented the Public Works crews for the fine snow removal efforts. He went on, however, to express concern with the fact that property owners were not clearing the sidewalks within 24 hours of the snow storm as required by City ordinance. He requested that Inspection Services enforce this law, particularly with respect to County owned facilities on Fleet Street.

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Councilmember Coyle noted that he had received two phone calls regarding sidewalks, and Mr. Meyer raises a good point. In some cases, this is the responsibility of homeowners associations; however, residents should be reminded to take care of this.

2. Jerome Loux, 1386 Stratton Drive, reiterated the excellent job City crews did in removing snow. He noted, however, that Potomac Woods Park has still not been plowed.

There being no other citizens wishing to be heard, the Mayor closed the Citizens Forum portion of the meeting.

Re: FYI/Correspondence

Detention Facilities Town Meeting

Mayor Duncan advised that Devon Brown, Montgomery County's Director of Correction and Rehabilitation, was invited to conduct an informational meeting regarding the County's future plans for detention center facilities. A tentative date of April 5 had been set, but this date has been changed to April 13. We are awaiting a response from Mr. Brown.

Public Education Forum

Councilmember Krasnow encouraged everyone to attend the Advisory Commission on Public Education's forum on Thursday, March 18, regarding, "Improving and Empowering our Schools."

KAT Program

The issue of a reduction in the KAT Program at Fallsmead Elementary was raised by Councilmember Coyle. Fallsmead will be having an additional kindergarten class next year, and space for the KAT program will not be available. It was noted that this is not a budget issue but, rather, a space issue with County schools. He requested that information be gathered for Mayor and Council review.

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Councilmember Marrinan noted that he knows of parents who have such high regard for the KAT program that they would be willing to transport their children to another facility. He requested that use of alternate facilities be reviewed to address the program's needs.

Senate Bill 507

Councilmember Krasnow noted that perhaps the City should send a letter in opposition to this bill which proposes to transfer to the State the costs of administration, maintenance and operation of local boards of supervisors of elections. Councilmember Marrinan agreed. Mayor Duncan requested that staff gather background information, including a copy of the bill and any legislative or fiscal analysis, and place this issue on the agenda for discussion at next week's meeting. He noted that the County's primary concern is the impact on current employees of the local boards. If the employee issues could be resolved, such as the retirement system, Mayor Duncan indicated that he is not sure this proposal would be harmful, particularly because it is an opportunity for the State to pick up funding.

Re: New Business

Councilmember Coyle referenced the **Small Business Management Seminars** brochure. He is pleased that the City is joining the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and Cable TV Montgomery in sponsoring these programs. Through satellite technology, individuals can take advantage of small business management programs featuring nationally recognized speakers.

Re: Next Meeting

The Mayor and Council will meet in general session next Monday evening, March 22, 1993, at which time they will appoint a new City Clerk, Paula Jewell; hear a presentation by Rockville Center, Inc. in response to issues raised at the February 23 public hearing; award a number of bids; adopt fees for Redgate Golf Course; and hear a presentation on graffiti.

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Re: Adjournment

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m., to convene again in General Session on Monday, March 22, 1993, at 7:30 p.m., or at the call of the Mayor.